

In the Claims

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method, employing an image sensor apparatus, and a separate portable device with a display screen, comprising using the image sensor apparatus to capture a representation of a graphic presented on the display screen of the portable device, and decoding said captured representation to obtain plural-bit data steganographically encoded in said graphic.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the graphic comprises an image of a person.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the graphic comprises an image of a proprietor of the portable device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the screen of the portable device is also used to display the current time.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the portable device is a wristwatch.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method, employing an image sensor apparatus, and a separate portable device with a display screen, comprising using the image sensor apparatus to capture a representation of a graphic presented on the display screen of the portable device, the graphic including a depiction of a proprietor of the portable device, and decoding plural-bit machine readable information also represented on the display screen.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of conveying plural bit information to a first device from a second, portable device, comprising:

receiving a steganographically encoded graphic, said steganographic encoding representing plural bit information;

displaying said encoded graphic on an electronic display screen of the second device; and

presenting said display screen to the first device for optical capture.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 that includes generating optical capture data in the first device, and decoding the plural bit information therefrom.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the graphic comprises an image of a proprietor of the second device.